

NIFA in the News – Week of March 19, 2012

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In the News

Obama to name Ramaswamy as NIFA director (Feedstuffs 3/16). President Barack Obama plans to appoint Sonny Ramaswamy as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). NIFA links USDA with the land-grant university community to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental, social, and human sciences. [Link](#)

SARE grants millions for sustainable ag research at Ohio State (Cattle Network 3/17). Ohio State University Extension researchers have garnered some \$2.8 million in grant funding over the last 23 years to advance sustainable agriculture issues in Ohio as part of an effort to benefit farmers, farm families and Ohioans statewide, according to a pair of OSU Extension educators. Since 1988, OSU Extension faculty members, researchers, educators, graduate students and farmers have been awarded the grants to fund 47 research and/or education projects and Extension projects from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture in partnership with regional and state coordinators nationwide. [Link](#)

Administrator of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Who Is Sonny Ramaswamy? (AllGov 3/19). An entomologist whose views of agriculture have been powerfully influenced by memories of famine in his native India has been nominated by President Obama to be the next Administrator of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Part of the Department of Agriculture, NIFA administers federal grant programs for agricultural, environment and human health research and education primarily at state universities, and by other approved partner institutions. [Link](#)

Cenusa Bioenergy receives \$25 million grant from USDA (Iowa State Daily 3/20). The Iowa State University-led Cenusa Bioenergy project works to develop a biofuel with both a Midwestern and environmental focus. Through a five-year, \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the project will

develop a holistic plan to create an advanced biofuel industry. [Link](#)

NCC Joins in Support of Increased Funding for Ag and Food Research (The Poultry Site 3/21). The National Chicken Council (NCC) joined 900 farmers and farmer groups, agricultural organizations, food and grocery manufacturers, technology providers, university administrators, scientific organizations and individual scientists from across the nation in expressing support for a strong federal investment in the USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area as a critical component of federal appropriations for FY 2013 (FY13). The coalition's support includes both USDA's suite of extramural programs in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and formula funds, and USDA's intramural programs including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). [Link](#)

Pesticide drift often caused by 'satellite' droplets (Western Farm Press 3/22). Chemical additives that help agricultural pesticides adhere to their targets during spraying can lead to formation of smaller "satellite" droplets that cause those pesticides to drift into unwanted areas, Purdue University researchers have found. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Air Quality Program, and the Army Research Office funded the work. [Link](#)

Ag groups, universities urge Congress to support research budget increases (AgriPulse 3/22). A group of more than 900 organizations, companies, institutions and individuals supported President Obama's fiscal year 2013 budget proposal for USDA's entire Research, Education and Economics mission area in their letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. The signatories expressly supported funding the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the fully authorized level of \$700 million and endorsed the Administration's FY13 request for \$325 million. [Link](#)

Northup to attend 2012 National 4-H Conference (Journal Advocate 3/22). Andrea Northup of Sterling will travel to Washington, D.C. on Saturday to attend the 2012 National 4-H Conference. National 4-H Conference creates an experience for delegates to become more familiar with government, reinforce the rich history of 4-H and its valuable tie to Extension and the land-grant system and visit with leaders from USDA, NIFA -- National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the land-grant university system. [Link](#)

USDA, DOE to provide \$35 million for advanced biofuels projects (Ethanol Producer Magazine 3/22). The Obama administration announced March 22 that it plans to provide up to \$35 million over three years to fund fiscal year 2012 Biomass Research and Development Initiative projects. Led by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, BRDI is focused on providing funding to projects that will help develop economically and environmentally sustainable sources of renewable biomass and increase the availability of advanced biofuels and bioproducts. [Link](#)

President Announces Support for Biofuels Development (Farm Futures 3/23). Speaking at Ohio State University Thursday, President Obama announced that up to \$35 million over three years will be provided to support research and development in advanced biofuels,

bioenergy and high-value biobased products. The projects funded through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative will help cut America's oil imports, develop clean alternative energy technologies, and protect American families and businesses from the ups and downs of the global oil market. [Link](#)

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